CONGRESSMAN BARON HILL
FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS PROJECT REQUEST
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **How do I know if I should submit an appropriations submission?**
- Any public, private or non-profit entity is technically eligible to make an appropriations request, but we strongly emphasize to those considering submissions the competitive nature of this process.
- In addition, the entity submitting the request must have an identified federal funding source in place (agency program or account).
- Only projects that are viable, have proper funding in place to complete the project (or next major phase) will be considered.

You should **NOT** submit a request if:
- Your project is still conceptual in nature, with no funding or plans in place.
- Awarded funds could not be expended for their intended purpose for this specific project or phase during Fiscal Year 2010
(Oct. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2010).

2. **What if I am planning to apply for a federally funded grant for this project, or currently have a grant application in for this project?**
- If you are currently applying for a federally funded grant, or plan to apply for federal funds for the project, please be sure to advise the Congressman's office when completing your questionnaire.
- This includes grant funds that may be federal, but applied for through a state agency or program (Ex. Community Focus Funds, transportation funds, etc.).
- The appropriations process does not "bypass" normal grant processes. For instance, if a community currently is applying for Community Focus Funds (CFF) to construct a community center, the appropriations process does not bypass the grant application process. The grant application for CFF funds should still be submitted, but the applicant could still submit a request for an appropriation.
- If the appropriation request amount is for additional project funds (besides the grant), that should be clearly noted on your questionnaire.

3. **What if I have never applied for federal funding for this project before?**
- Entities wishing to submit a request are eligible to apply for direct agency appropriations, meaning funds that do not necessarily require a formal grant application process such as Community Focus Funds.
- However, it is still necessary for the applying entity to identify the source of funding in their submission request, and it should come from an agency program or account.

4. What if I am unsure of the funding source necessary to fund my project?

- It is necessary for those considering submitting appropriations requests to identify funding sources while completing the questionnaire.
- As noted in the cover letter, due to the short timeline and potential volume of submissions, the Congressman's office cannot guarantee that technical assistance questions can be answered in a timely manner.
- However, we do want to be available for questions, so please do not hesitate to call regarding procedural issues – it is our goal to do the best we can to help you.

5. When will I know if my appropriation request has been approved?

- Entities submitting requests should be informed of the final status of requests by the start of the 2010 Fiscal Year (October 2009). This timeline is subject to change, however, based on when Appropriations bills are passed and signed by the President.
- Once the President signs Appropriations bills into law, the appropriate federal agency will contact the funding recipient to guide them through the rest of the process.

6. Is this the same thing as the "earmarks" I've heard about in the past?

- Technically, these Appropriation requests were formerly known as "earmarks."
- However, it is my belief that the process formerly known as "earmarking" HAD to change, and my colleagues agreed. We need transparency in government, and particularly with respect to how tax dollars are spent.
- Any Appropriations requests that I make to the Appropriations Committee as well as those approved in the final FY 2010 budget will be clearly visible and well-known to my constituents.